

SALISBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION - 1 - September 24, 2007 Corrected

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. in the SCS Media Center.

Present: Mr. Roger Rawlings, Chairman, Presiding; Mrs. Clare Rashkoff, Mr. Brian Bartram, Mr. Bob Riva, Ms. Jennifer Weigel, Board Members; Mr. Chris Butwill, Principal; Ms. Patricia Chamberlain, Superintendent; Ms. Lori Tompkins, Board Clerk; Mrs. Holly P. Reid, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Amanda Halle, Region One Representative; Ms. Jeanine Coleman, Ms. Gayle Christinat, Teachers; Mr. Terry Cowgill, Reporter.

Agenda: The Agenda was amended to include under New Business: Kindergarten proposal, authorizing the Principal to sign for the Child Nutrition Program, request for a change in the cafeteria personnel hours of work, board approval for the Superintendent to apply for CT State grant money.

Minutes: The August 27, 2007 minutes, with a single correction were unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Bartram and seconded by Ms. Weigel.

The September 12, 2007 minutes, with a single correction were unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Bartram and seconded by Mr. Rawlings.

Financial Report: The financial report was accepted as presented. Ms. Tompkins answered several questions from the board.

Communications to the Board: Ms. Weigel reported for the PTO. Mrs. Julie Kremer and Mrs. Jennifer Segalla are co-presidents, Mrs. Karen Grimaldi is vice-president, Mrs. Kate Murray is secretary, and Mrs. Becky Lachaine is treasurer. A committee is putting together a list of FAQs that cover procedure and how the school functions for inquiring parents.

Mrs. Clare Rashkoff tendered her resignation as BOE secretary, effective immediately, as she will not be running for reelection to the board. She expressed her appreciation to the board for her positive experience while working on this board.

Mrs. Halle gave her Region One report. The Chair for the Science department gave a presentation. Job descriptions are being developed for all positions at the high school. All students met goal on the CAPT tests.

Mr. Bartram announced a recycling awareness program to be held on Wednesday September 26, 2007 in the Hotchkiss School Science Building at 1:30 p.m.

The ABC committee regarding transportation is looking ahead to consider regionalizing the bus contracts.

The Region One Athletic Director, Mr. Craig Toensig has been asked to explore how Region One teams are formed. Different schools have different methods. The committee supports the continuation of the position of the Region One AD.

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Ms. Chamberlain noted that the Summer School program offered no enrichment programs. She is asking for feed back from parents. The program requires a large space and considerable funds to run. The enrichment portion of the summer school is again not, expected to be offered next year.

Principal's Report: Mr. Butwill reported on a 'Going Green' project, organized for SCS by Ms. Jen Law, through the efforts of community member Larry Gabbe. A display of the economic and environmental benefits of changing to the new fluorescent light bulbs is helping teach the students about our ecology. Connecting to the SCS Website offers community members opportunity to support this effort.

Zena Vadney has been hired to work in the kitchen to help prepare lunches.

Miss Allycia Reel has been hired as the Middle School soccer team coach.

Mr. Butwill has reported to the faculty the intent of the board to hold program reviews.

The parent information nights were well attended and well received. Mr. Butwill thanked the teachers for their efforts to make these evenings informative and welcoming to parents.

The Student Handbook has been updated. Mr. Butwill noted that the handbook will be looked at in the spring and suggestions for improvement will be accepted.

Superintendent's Report: Ms. Chamberlain announced that the CABA CAPT Conference will be held November 16-17 in Groton, CT. Interested board members should sign up. An unnamed spot can be reserved so that newly elected board members may attend.

Two grants for SCS were increased for this year: Educational Cost Share Grants (ECSG) increased 4.4% - \$7,893, Title 1 Funding increased 2% - \$1,607.

Ms. Chamberlain gave board members a packet summarizing legislative action. She asked board members to read over the material that pertains to SCS.

Committee Reports: Curriculum: Ms. Weigel is organizing the program review committees. Individual committees will be formed for each of the different programs. The board is committed to establishing consistent representation on all review committees. Mr. Meyer has been asked to chair the Art Review Committee.

School Plant/Grounds: Mr. Riva reported that the roof was finished this summer. The new tanks were installed and everything seems to be working well. The security locks have had only minor issues. The 'unannounced fire drill' (due to an unknown problem that is being actively pursued) prompted Mr. Riva to share his praise for the staff and students who reacted so professionally.

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Transportation: Mr. Bartram reported that going from seven buses to six has caused some minor issues. Bus rides for some students during the first week were longer than anticipated. As routes became familiar, times improved. Verbal complaints not backed up by written communications can not be addressed unless the person appears at a board or transportation committee meeting.

Old Business: 5th reading of Policy 5118 Resident and Non-resident. The Amended Policy 5118 was unanimously approved on a motion made by Ms. Weigel and seconded by Mrs. Rashkoff.

New Business: As Mrs. Clare Rashkoff resigned as secretary for the BOE, it was necessary to elect a temporary secretary. Mr. Brian Bartram was nominated on a motion made by Ms. Weigel and seconded by Mr. Rawlings. The nomination was unanimously approved.

A discussion was held about hiring an aid to cover lunchroom and other support duties in lieu of the Kindergarten aids. The Kindergarten classes are larger than expected and Mr. Butwill requested that an additional aid be hired so the larger Kindergarten classes would be covered all day by at least two adults. Mr. Butwill presented two scenarios after conversations with the Kindergarten teachers. The first scenario was for a 5.75hour per day employee and the second was for a 4.5 hour per day employee. The difference in cost and the benefit to the school were weighed. A motion to authorize Mr. Butwill to hire an aid for 5.75 hours/day, for one year only, with two hours committed to the cafeteria and the remainder to be spent in classrooms as needed, was made by Mrs. Rashkoff, and seconded by Mr. Riva. The vote showed three ayes, one opposed (Mr. Bartram). The motion was carried by majority.

Mr. Joe Byrnes requested, in writing, with concurrence from Union President, Mrs. Patti Stevens, that the new cafeteria worker, Ms. Zena Vadny have the working hours of 8:45-1:45 to better coincide with the needs of the cafeteria to prepare meals. The motion made by Mrs. Rashkoff and seconded by Mr. Riva, was unanimously approved.

A motion to authorize Ms. Chamberlain to apply for CT State grants (Homeland Security) for reimbursement for security implementations within SCS was unanimously approved on a motion made by Mrs. Rashkoff and seconded by Mr. Rawlings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Mrs. Holly P. Reid
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Clare Rashkoff
Secretary